

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:  
a CPU;  
a memory coupled to the CPU, the memory storing programs executable by the CPU; and  
a system management processor coupled to the CPU, wherein the system management processor is operable selectively to establish hardware-based remote console sessions and software-based remote console sessions.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the programs executable by the CPU support software-based remote console sessions.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the programs executable by the CPU enable data transfer between the system and the system management processor.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the system management processor comprises an application-specific integrated circuit.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the system management processor supports hardware-based remote console sessions and software-based remote console sessions.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the system management processor is powered independently from the system.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein when operating a hardware remote console the system management processor tracks changes in a video memory, analyzes the changes, compresses data describing the changes, and sends the compressed data to remote locations.

8. A system comprising:
  - a host computer comprising:
    - a CPU;
    - a memory coupled to the CPU; and
    - a system management processor coupled to the CPU and memory;
  - a remote computer coupled to the system management processor by way of a communication network;
  - wherein the remote computer accesses the host computer by way of the system management processor to initiate a remote console session; and
  - wherein the system management processor selectively switches between a software-based remote console session and a hardware-based remote console session.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the remote computer further comprises a software-based remote console applet program and a hardware-based remote console applet program, the software-based remote console applet program supporting software-based remote console sessions and the hardware-based remote console applet program supporting hardware-based remote console sessions.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the hardware-based remote console applet program controls the software-based remote console applet program.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein the system management processor controls the hardware-based remote console applet program and the software-based remote console applet program.
12. The system of claim 8, wherein the system management processor is powered separately from the system.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the memory comprises programs executable by the CPU, the programs supporting software-based remote console sessions.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the programs enable communications between the CPU and the system management processor.

15. A computer system, comprising:  
a means for executing programs;  
a means for storing programs for execution coupled to the means for executing; and  
a means for providing remote console to the computer system coupled to the means for executing;  
wherein the means for providing selectively establishes hardware-based remote console sessions and software-based remote console sessions.

16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the means for storing further comprises programs for execution that support software-based remote console sessions.

17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the programs for execution facilitate communications between the computer system and the means for providing.

18. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the means for providing comprises:  
an application-specific integrated circuit, the application-specific integrated circuit comprising a microcontroller; and  
a memory coupled to the application-specific integrated circuit.

19. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the memory is used for communication between the means for providing and the computer system.

20. The computer system of claim 20, wherein when operating a hardware remote console the means for providing tracks changes in a video memory, analyzes the changes, compresses data describing the changes, and sends the compressed data to remote locations.